

change in Europe. One of them is the CSCE or the Helsinki process. I have invited President Bush and the other 32 leaders of Europe and North America to Helsinki for the next CSCE followup meeting due to begin in March 1992.

Mr. President, the review of our bilateral agenda showed that our relations are, indeed, in excellent shape. There is mutual appreciation and recognition of our respected roles in world affairs. There are long-standing bonds of friendship between our people. And there are good prospects for expanding the Finnish-American partnership.

I shall leave Washington with warm sentiments about our old and steady friendship. I hope to see you, Mr. President and Mrs. Bush, again in Finland in the not too distant future.

*President Bush.* Thank you, sir.

*Q.* Mr. President, you sounded a little hoarse. Are you all right?

*President Bush.* Yes, just fine.

*Q.* Have you got a cold?

*President Bush.* Talking too much. No, I don't think so.

*Q.* Mr. President, do you have anything from the meeting today between Gorbachev and Ambassador Matlock? It seemed like it went well.

*President Bush.* What was that?

*Q.* CFE. Matlock met with Gorbachev today, and the initial reports were positive.

*President Bush.* We haven't got it yet over here.

*Note: President Bush spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the South Portico of the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union and Jack Matlock, U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union. Prior to their remarks, the two Presidents met privately in the Oval Office and with U.S. and Finnish officials in the Cabinet Room, and then attended a luncheon in the Old Family Dining Room.*

## Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on President Bush's Meeting With President Francesco Cossiga and Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti of Italy

*May 7, 1991*

The President met with Italian President Cossiga and Prime Minister Andreotti for about 45 minutes in the Oval Office. The President and the two Italian leaders discussed the Middle East, European security issues, and Eastern Europe. On the Middle East, they discussed the need for continued urgent humanitarian relief for the Kurdish refugees and the need to provide security for their prompt and safe return to their villages. They underscored the important role of the United Nations in taking over and in facilitating the refugee situation.

President Cossiga and Prime Minister

Andreotti stressed the strong importance they attach to the Atlantic alliance and the indispensable role of the United States in assuring European security. In their discussion of East European issues, the three leaders expressed concern over growing violence in Yugoslavia. They stressed the importance of respect for human rights and democracy but also affirmed their support for Yugoslavia's political and territorial integrity. They noted that during this volatile period it is important for all sides to practice restraint and to work for a peaceful outcome to disputes.